

EMBL's contribution to completing the ERA - Key indicators and activities in 2013

EMBL provided a written reply to the 2013 ERA Survey (via on-line survey and through a written submission from EIROforum) and to the 2014 ERA Survey. The 2014 reply was provided under the code DE 20138.

While the submitted reply to the 2014 ERA Survey contains complete statistics, main statistical indicators for 2013 are:

- Number of staff in headcount: 1760, of whom 1550 are R&D personnel
- R&D Budget: 184 MEUR
- Number of users of RIs: bioinformatics services: 3,682,000 unique users; structural biology services: 3000; core facilities users: over 1000 users;

During 2013 EMBL contributed to the implementation of all five ERA priorities as they are identified in 2012 Communication on completing the ERA:

1. Contribution to the ERA priority to create **an open labour market for researchers**

- In 2013 EMBL was conferred with the EC's "Excellence in research" logo in recognition of its progress in implementing the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for Recruitment of Researchers. EMBL developed a strategy and an action plan, which incorporates the Charter and Code.
- EMBL has remained committed to advertising vacancies on EURAXESS, implementing merit based recruitment process, launching career development initiatives etc.

2. Contribution to the ERA priority to establish **more effective national research systems**

- EMBL institutional partnerships are close cooperative affiliations between EMBL and institutions of comparable standard, vision and international orientation based in EMBL member states and associate member states. The partnerships capitalize on European and national investments in life sciences and allow for coordinated cross-border use of expertise and research infrastructure. In 2013 the Nordic EMBL Partnership for Molecular Medicine, which had until then connected institutes of excellence in Norway, Finland and Sweden, was expanded to Denmark. Overall, the EMBL partnership network now comprises national institutes within nine countries and thereby contributes to more effective national systems in life science research.
- To strengthen research links with institutes in its member states, in 2013 EMBL entered into several agreements envisaging scientific exchange and collaboration. Recognizing the potential for synergism in the field of structural biology, EMBL formalized its scientific links with the Karolinska Institutet, Sweden. A collaboration with the Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany, aims to address the scientific

opportunities and challenges in the application of structural biology to understand certain human diseases. Last but not least, agreement with the Fonds National de la Recherche Luxembourg will support research projects of best quality put forward jointly by Luxemburgish and EMBL researchers.

3. Contribution to the ERA priority **optimal co-operation and effective investment and use of research infrastructures**

- EMBL is contributing towards cooperation and effective investment and use of research infrastructures across the ERA by expanding its membership. In 2013 the EMBL Council endorsed the membership of the Czech Republic. In 2013 also Malta submitted an application for becoming an EMBL member state. This will be on the agenda of the EMBL Council in summer 2014.
- Moreover, with the aim of facilitating integration of the molecular biology community in Europe, in 2013 the EMBL Council adopted a policy on prospect membership. The aim of the policy is to attract countries from Central and Eastern Europe to join EMBL and thereby encourage better integration of life science research in Europe. The prospect membership of EMBL is of transitional character and offers broad access to EMBL facilities and services with no financial cost. This policy was welcomed by several European countries and in February 2014 the Slovak Republic became the first EMBL prospect member state.
- Along the principles stated in the 2012 EC Communication on international cooperation in research and innovation, also EMBL acknowledges that excellent science is a global endeavor that requires pooling of expertise and resources. In 2013 EMBL revised its associate membership scheme to further foster the development of mutually beneficial research cooperation activities with non-European states. As a result, in 2013 the EMBL Council approved an application from Argentina to become an associate member state. Australia has been an EMBL associate member state since 2008.
- Progress in coordinating national investment in research infrastructures has been noticeable also in ELIXIR and Euro-BioImaging. In 2013 ELIXIR moved into its implementation phase following the entering into force of the ELIXIR Consortium Agreement, which has been since signed by nine European countries and EMBL. In 2013 Euro-BioImaging presented a Memorandum of Understanding which is a first formal step towards establishing this Research Infrastructure. The Memorandum has been so far signed by eleven countries and EMBL.

4. Contribution to the ERA priority **gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research**

- During 2013 EMBL management encouraged institutional change through actions of different working groups and discussions on gender equality at different levels within the organisation. An example of an action has been the guidelines to ensure applications from suitable female candidates during the recruitment of group leaders.

5. Contribution to the ERA priority **optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge**

- EMBL continuously implements open access (a case in point are the bioinformatics services), provides digital research services, and encourages different initiatives with the industry. In addition, Europe PubMed Central, maintained at EMBL-EBI and supported by more than 20 funding organisations, provides free access to life sciences and biomedical research publication information, to enable innovation through use of the literature, including text mining, and to facilitate and provide integration of related research data.
- EMBL encourages knowledge transfer via its own technology transfer company. 2013 statistics on knowledge transfer were submitted in the 2014 ERA Survey reply.